

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Theodore V. Buttrey
Fitz William Museum
Cambridge CB2 1RB
United Kingdom

9 February 1996

Dear Ted:

Supplementing the prior report to you there is sent to you herewith our observations on the brass and copper strikings of the \$20 1853 US Assay Office pieces. They are unlisted. They are definitely from transfer dies by virtue of the extra lump which arose during the transfer. The original dies were cut by George Albert Ferdinand Kuner who came to California in 1849 and died there in January 1906, just three months before the earthquake. He did metallic art work all of his working life. He could have had the US Assay Office dies in his possession when he died or perhaps he had turned them over to the San Francisco Mint previously. In any event the original dies (which I believe were still in San Francisco in 1906) and the transfer dies were sent to the Philadelphia Mint or else there is no way Nagy could have obtained them. Nagy had a store in Philadelphia on 18th street selling autographs, cards, coins, documents, etc. and I will soon get an advertisement of that store. Through the pull of his relative John Haseltine at the Mint, Nagy and Haseltine could get all kinds of things and even have work done there with "unofficial" material like private California coin dies (The US Assay Office was privately owned). So Nagy could have fiddled with original or transfer dies. When he died his accumulation included things acquired from the Mint, probably as junk. It was the coin related items which were sold by the Nagy Estate to Merkin or friends of Merkin and then given to the Smithsonian on the 50 year "don't open" deal. Naturally there was a tax deduction angle. Dave Bowers is trying to find out from Hodder what was in the gift as Hodder says he knows. I will advise you promptly if he does. Things could easily have been borrowed temporarily before the gift. Number and letter punches could certainly have been siphoned off. The reason for the gift was to give back to the government things which belonged to the government and to delay the examination of them until those involved in liberating them were no longer subject to embarrassment during their lives.

If you need anything further please feel free to ask.

Hopefully this may be helpful.

My best,



Eric P. Newman

1853 U.S. ASSAY OFFICE OF GOLD \$20 COPPER AND BRASS
REPRODUCTIONS ATTRIBUTED TO STEPHEN K. NAGY.

COMPARISON WITH ORIGINAL GOLD STRIKES

REPRODUCTIONS APPARENTLY STRUCK FROM TRANSFER DIES

OBVERSE

I in UNITED has a round top instead of a flat top with serifs.
Gold originals also have a round top on that I.

Raised circular lump in the field below upright of T in
UNITED. No such lump on gold originals.

E in AMERICA has no upper left serif. Gold originals also are
missing that serif.

R in AMERICA has no upper left serif. Gold originals have a
weak left serif.

I in AMERICA has a weak top. That I in originals has a well
formed top.

E in TWENTY has no lower left serif. Gold originals also are
missing that serif.

LIBERTY on ribbon very weak. Much stronger on gold originals.

Portions of device are weak and not weakly struck. Gold
originals have stronger and clearer devices.

REVERSE

Right upper arm of Y in ASSAY is virtually invisible. Same is
true on gold originals.

Strong clear impression of geometric lathe design. Same is
true on gold originals.

Tiny die break shows below second S in ASSAY and L below it.
Some originals show no die break, other originals show
a die break from S to L thru C continuing between 1 and
8 to the border of the panel.

EDGE

162 reeds on edge. This is the same number as on gold
originals. The collar is the same or is made with the same
broaching machine setting as the collar or collars for gold
originals.

4/17/96 Harry Forman telephoned me

He told me that he had been looking for more Nazi items and hoped I had seen the label etc. I told him I then had by me for the catalog notice he sent & he agreed to come that any day. He told me Naggy had a store on Wilkerson before moving to 18th Street.

He then saw the Bentley Company who have it worked for and the dies for the Clark Double eagle pieces in 14.64 together and they became Franklin Banks & Biddle. That he had later had the paper & had some Naggy got tired of the paper of the Biddle family (some of them) and he sold lots of bond grants etc. he had from Naggy as worthless.

Then he said that John Ford had telephoned him to get some info on the 1933 double eagle matter. Forman told Ford that he could also by the name of Switt in Philadelphia got a group of 1933 double eagles by exchanging them with someone in the company. Switt sold some to a neighbor in NY who sold them to Stacks & others. Some kept in a vault and then

the government found out everyone cooperated to get all of the 1933 double eagles back. He said that the famous piece had to be the palace piece and that Rosoff sold it to Fawcett.

Then he said he asked Ford about the Naggy estate deal and Ford told him that Stacks bought the material and that Ford had been the appraiser and that it was a tax deal. He said that Rubin was angry because he didn't get to buy it.

Then my name came up even though Forman didn't ask any more or tell Ford that I was interested in the Naggy matter. In any case Ford said I was angry at him etc. Forman said that after Ford was so much and couldn't attend Abraham HAA (relocated) I was the one who called up Forman and told him that I had learned that Ford was much improved and was pleased about it.

Forman said he was looking for Naggy stuff and found sheet of stamps and some Eisenhower and a gold medal and sold them to Stacks and the best.

I thanked Forman for his cooperation and he mentioned the J. Baker shoe company, which I explained was not the Edison Baker.

SPJ

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: Kenneth Bressett

July 28, 1998

From: Eric P. Newman

Enclosed for the secret file is further information from published material

See Adams - Private Gold (1912) p. 106 (enclosed)

He says 8 pioneer dies are at the Philadelphia Mint, ^{and That} The history of how they got there is not known. It could have taken place in 1906. I never realized that the Mint had those dies or inquired whether Smithsonian or the Mint has them now.

Have you ever heard of splashings being made from plaster casts of dies? That is unusual.

The Mitchelson splashings could have been received between 1906 and 1909. Illustrations were first written up in May 1909 in The Numismatist by Adams. This fits the junk removal theory well.

I want to see Mehl's typewritten inventory of Newcomer pioneer gold. I know Stack's has it. It is not in any library I am aware of. It was an enormous collection. Newcomer would have obtained various off-metal pieces just as Mitchelson might have done.

The \$50 obverse US Assay die Kuner signed appeared in the "junk" and if it were the only one in the junk, then the junk would not be worth the trouble of moving out of the way. Much more stuff had to be there.

11/17/48 Called Hestie — he had called last week.

Partuch told Marie that he had asked Hodder to speak at the Partuch (formerly Stuck) lecture and that Hodder accepted. Marie told Elson this and Elson called Partuch and confirmed that it happened. There is an honorarium paid for the lecture, I don't make it the Bronx Fund research. He said there was about to write Hodder comments about his submission and he has not seen it, I told him I was to see it before it was sent.

I said that Partuch is trying to gain goodwill for AS ~~Stuck~~ in general (particularly Stuck).

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: Leslie Blam

November 30, 1998

From: Eric P. Newman

A possible reason for the Bowers harsh letter to ANS about the Buttrey article is in the Coin World of December 9, 1998, p. 50. A copy of his plan to publish a book on Pioneer Gold is enclosed. The Buttrey article made it more complicated for Dave. Dave has written 200 pages already and may have some severe editing to do.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

December 29, 1998

Confidential to Kenneth Bressett

For your secret file and not for dissemination

At the PNG arbitration hearing of the 1853 \$20 USAOG case of Garland vs. Ryan in Chicago in the 1960s, someone stated or testified about the trick played on Abe Kosoff by John Ford. Ford had borrowed from Kosoff the silver Mexican 8 reales with the 1851 \$5 Schultz overstrike and had returned to Kosoff a reproduction made by Franklin in order to fool Kosoff. When Kosoff didn't know the difference, the bunch had their laugh and returned the original piece to Kosoff and took back the reproduction. I believe I have more detail in my records in storage.

This is a similar stunt to the incident you describe.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv



KENNETH BRESSETT
POST OFFICE BOX 60145
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80960

June 21, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I got samples of the Rittenhouse lapel pins. They are not as good as I hoped, and I am reluctant to accept them from the manufacturer. I need your help, advice and suggestions as to how we can make them better.

We are somewhat locked-in to this style of pin if we are to get them for a reasonable price. The question is what can we do to make it look better. Or, do you think these will be acceptable to the members.

Choices are: make the head solid; make the head outlined; eliminate the head, and make the lettering larger.

I am going to make the book look more like a book by using a better spine. Do you think I should drop the diagonal lines at the corners? That would give more room for the legend.

Please give me your best suggestions as quickly as you can. We can have the pins for the Chicago ANA convention if we act fast enough. Call, write, e-mail or fax your response.

And what do you think about charging a one-time dues of \$15.00 to offset the cost of the pins. It might also indicate if some members are no longer interested in being members (I am thinking of some who have never attended a meeting.)

Thanks for sending the latest for my "secret" file. All very interesting...some almost unbelievable.

Peace,

free admission annual affair
is regularity

year. Congratulations to Hans Schulz on the first auction sale of his in this country, which mainly commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of this concern. Fred Bullowa spoke on a local broadcasting network March 23. If were prizes for the most enterprising for numismatics writer believes they would go to and Ted Hammen.

Bullwags and Ted Hammer.
sticed an ad the other day road-
"40 different Indian Heals \$1."
l, there are all kinds of people
all races and I suppose the Red
as are no exception.

The Madison Square Boys Club
ned tables on the ladies recently
I had a surprise checkup of ladies
us at the Flower Show in New

pus at the 44 percent confidence
rate. Over 10 different articles. First
two went to the woman with 2.7
like than her purse. Next high
with 133 articles. One woman had
iving 102 articles of false teeth, and one
extra two breakfast rolls. This might
velop into a good game for col-
velop. At your next club meeting
ry it out and if any self respecting
edictor doesn't beat the record of
e ladies by just emptying out and
e pockets, it will be surprising
real pockets. If the search develops a
Of course, if the search develops a
of false teeth, that might be an
extreme skeptic on condition, while
a pair of breakfast rolls turned up
it would be a hundred to one they
were from the pockets of an over-
stocked dealer.

The N.Y. Times carried a story the other day on the Chinese government being forced by the exigencies of war to utilize old kerosene cans for part of its coinage. (See page 120 February, 1940. Scrapbook). The article goes on to say: "Many other

"Tin, like practically every other

money and alloy has been used before as a medium of currency. England once used it, when several early British kings attempted to capitalize on the rich Cornwall tin mines.

"Gold" was used in Lydia where the first-known coins were made, although cubes of gold employed by the Chinese may have preceded stamped coinage.

"Silver coins were also introduced in Lydia. The metal was the chief Greek currency, and supplemented copper at once in 269 B.C.

Platinum was used in Russia about 1830 for the manufacture of durable pieces.

3-ruble pieces.
"Copper, in conjunction with iron, was a major factor in early Chinese coinage. It figured largely in early Hebrew coins. It was introduced

"Brass apparently was introduced by the Chinese. It is now being used in the manufacture of 5-cent pieces in China.

Nickel, in almost pure form, is now being used extensively.

"Lead has served as money
Burning. the currency of the

Burma.
"Iron, among the countries of the ancient world, was widely used as currency. Sparta was famous for its iron money. During the World War

"Zinc during the World War.
 flourished as a medium of exchange
 in the countries surrounding Germa-
 nly. and Bronze now form

"Aluminum and Bronze now form one of the most popular alloys for coinage in the world.

"Stainless steel" has even come into use. Italy now has coins of non-monetal, a steel alloy."

Malta has issued notes of 2½ shillings.

American dollars and gold coins bring big premiums in the illicit money traffic in France. The dollar brings 100 francs in these illegal transactions. Regular price is 71.

See You Saw It in The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine

Trying to Get a Commemorative
K. H. Patrick forwarded a clip
ping from the Columbia (S.C.) State
which talks of a new South Carolina
commemorative being proposed. This
item reads in part:

item reads in part:
Congressman Fulmer is introducing a bill authorizing the minting of 50,000 50-cent coins to known as the Lafayette half dollar commemorating the landing of South Carolina soil of that eminent Frenchman, the Marquis de Lafayette, on June 16, 1777. This bill is being introduced at the request of the American Revolution Daughters of the American Revolution. It is the purpose of this legislation to erect a suitable monument out of the proceeds from the sale of this coin.

Templeton Raid's Stolen???

Arthur D. Cutler reports that the Indianapolis News carried a story with F. Wayne, Ind., date line saying that three gold coins worth some \$7,500 at collector's prices were included in the loot taken by a burglar from the home of Theodore Brandt.

The item goes on to say that the pieces were \$25 Templeton Reid gold coins. Can any reader in Fort Wayne shed any light on this story?

Dr. G. Cyril James, principal of McGill University, told a Montreal service club that an entirely new international money system would probably result from the war.

Penny and Nickel Dabys
Some half dozen clippings were
sent in by readers this past month
regarding the expectant parents
saving cents (mostly) and nickels
to pay for hospital bills. One party
in Philadelphia saved \$50 in Jefferson
nickels; another in Allentown.
The doctor 10,345 cents. This
practice is getting so common that
it isn't news any longer.

Page 404

This was probably
a Nagy restrike(s)
as it is very early



KENNETH BRESSETT
POST OFFICE BOX 60145
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80960

February 26, 1998

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Shortly after I began working for Western Publishing Company in 1959 (gosh, that's 40 years ago!) John Ford contacted me with information he said should be added to the Red Book. He offered to write new text and supply pictures of Territorial coins that "should be added to the book." I was curious, and asked him to tell me more about what he had in mind.

He sent several proposals for consideration and some of them were used in the Red Book for a short time. Then somewhere around 1965 he sent me a manuscript and layout that he said should be used to revise the section on Assay Office gold. I never did use that work, and it has been buried in some file at Western Publishing Company ever since.

Last week I was in Racine and found the old files are being cleaned out in anticipation of their move to a new building. I asked to go through them, and was able to recover the Ford manuscript. It is very interesting. I will show it to you when you are here this summer and you can have copies of it.

A prime reason for my wanting to see it right now is so that I could research the Kohler bars of \$47.71 and \$41.68 that Ted Buttrey questioned in his recent article. In response to his comments, I am going to add a notation that the J.H. Bowie \$5 gold is questionable, and I am now going to remove the \$47.71 Kohler bar. I see no reason to condemn the \$41.68 piece yet. Do you? It looks good to me. I suspect you will find this of some interest, and await your comments. I don't have Ted Buttrey's address. Will you please forward copies of all this to him?

Peace,



Ken Bressett

Clues.
Black
Photos

SC-21

1850. \$36.55 INGOT. 20 CARAT. 42 DWT., 12 GRS. UNIQUE

THE VIRGIL M. BRAND SPECIMEN. PURCHASED IN 1908 BY MR. BRAND FROM A FAMILY WHO HE OWNED IT SINCE THE TIME OF ISSUE. AT THE DIVISION OF THE BRAND ESTATE, THIS PIECE WENT TO THE ARMAND BRAND SECTION, FROM WHERE IT WAS SOLD, IN 1945, FOR \$5,000 (OR \$10,000 AMOUNT SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION) TO AGENTS OF KING FAROUK. AT THE SALE OF THE PALACE COLLECTIONS OF EGYPT, IN 1954, THIS INGOT WAS LOT 346, AND WAS ILLUSTRATED ON PLATE VI. IT WAS SOLD FOR £1,300 TO A CALIFORNIA DEALER, AND RESOLD BY HIM TO A NEW YORK FIRM FOR \$7,500 AT THE 1954 A.N.A. CONVENTION, FOR THE ACCOUNT OF AN ANONYMOUS COLLECTOR.

THIS IS THE ONLY CHISEL ILLUSTRATION,

Clues
T.9-110
Card 21

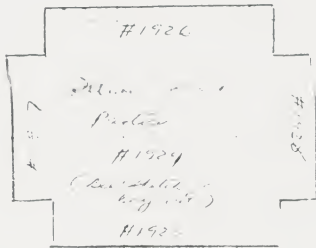
SC-22

SHOWING ALL SIX STAMPED SIDES, EVER PUBLISHED OF A SACRAMENTO OFFICE INGOT.

1850. \$47.71 INGOT. 21 CARAT. 51 DWT., 2 GRS. UNIQUE

THE PAUL FRANKLIN SPECIMEN. DISCOVERED IN ARIZONA, IN MID 1956, BY MR. FRANKLIN. AUTHENTICATED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE EDITOR AND F. C. C. BOYD. ORIGINALLY THE PROPERTY OF A LOCAL INHABITANT NAMED TOM MOHER, THIS ITEM WAS OFFERED FOR SALE TO A DEALER YEARS AGO. THE DEALER HELD THE PIECE ON MEND, AND, FINALLY, RETURNING IT, MADE A LOW UNACCEPTABLE OFFER, CLAIMING THE INGOT WAS FRAUDULENT.

THIS IS THE ONLY COMPLETE ILLUSTRATION



#1527
Pm's furnished by
ST. Union up
not suitable and they
will for issue. 1977

SPENDING ALL SIX SIDES, EVER PUBLISHED OF A SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE INSOT.

1850. \$41.68 INSET 21 $\frac{3}{8}$ CIRCLET. 46 DWT. UNIQUE
(6 OF 46 (DWT) PUNCHED OVER NUMERICAL 1, FINISHED.
CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THIS INSET INDICATES THAT ALL
STAMPS ARE FROM LOGOTYPES EXCEPT FOR THE FRACTION
" $\frac{3}{8}$ " THE WEIGHT "46," AND THE DENOMINATION, "\$41.68".
THE FINENESS NUMBER "21" MAY BE FROM A LOGOTYPE,
BUT IS, MOST PROBABLY, FROM INDIVIDUAL PUNCHES.)

THE STACK SPECIMEN. DISCOVERED IN THE SAN FRANCISCO - BAY AREA IN AUGUST, 1964. THIS PIECE WAS ALLEGEDLY GIVEN BY KOHLER TO A CAPTAIN AND OWNER OF A (SACRAMENTO?) RIVER STRAKER, AND WAS RETAINED BY HIS FAMILY AS A PERSONAL HEIRLOOM. SHORTLY AFTER ITS APPEARANCE, DEALER BEN STACK PURCHASED THIS INGOT FROM THE ORIGINAL OWNER'S GREAT, GREAT GRANDCHILD, A WOMAN APPROACHING MIDDLE AGE.

#1924



#1925

STATE ASSAULT

#1924



#1926

STATE ASSAULT

4/3/98

Spoke to John Kleiberg about Nifty's having a 1853 US AG \$20 which caused the breakup between Nifty & Nifty's.

Kleiberg told me that AN's ~~has~~ ^{has} the ~~original~~ original doc for the Kellogg \$20 which was given to AN's by the Kellogg family. I asked for a picture and he will send it.

He also stated that the Kellogg family also gave AN's an 1846 8 second Alexander City Mint ~~gold~~ die pair which they have, that they were close to finding a coin from it but that was declared a counterfeit at a sale and ^{the coin} withdrawn and melted. I suggested giving the problem to Clyde Hubbard. He said but they had a picture of it. I asked for a picture also and he will get it for me. Apparently Kellogg made the 8 second doc and they are for counterfeit circulating pieces of full weight which would circulate in California easily.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: Ken Bressett

June 9, 1998

From: Eric P. Newman Confidential file on
private gold matters

To my great surprise I find in Don Kagin's book, Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States, pages 376-377 an admission that some USAOG \$20 strikings are false.

The title to the section E is:

"Spurious, Fantasy, and Similar Pieces Made for Collectors"

Under that title are three issuers: Ormsby, US Assay Office, and Templeton Reid. Under US Assay Office there are three uniface US Assay Office \$20 pieces, one in silver, one in copper and one in lead. The reverse design is exactly like the US Assay Office 1853 reverse but is dated 1852. The pieces are "Made by Steven Nagy circa 1908-12".

The first confusion is the specific reference to K12. K12 (p. 271) is a \$10 coin, not a \$20 coin. The K stands for Kagin (see p. 250). There is no \$20 coin dated 1852 of the US Assay Office, only a Humbert \$20 dated 1852 which has the same style of reverse but different text. The 1852 \$20 reverse of US Assay Office is almost identical to the K17 reverse or the K18 reverse (p. 273) except for the date of 1853.

Thus the 1852 \$ 20 US Assay reverse die is the one which was never used for production of a two sided coin. That die could certainly have been part of the rescued group that Nagy got. This is new to me and strengthens the position.

It is probably pointless to mention that in describing item 3 on page 377 the text refers twice to "3 above" instead of 2, adding a little more confusion.

This matter is to be held in ^{se}confidential~~ity~~ between us in the same manner as other matters on the same subject sent to you.

EPN



Michael Hodder
Numismatic Research
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October 27, 1998

Mr. John Dannreuther
868 Mt. Moriah/Suite 202
Memphis, TN 38117

Dear JD:

Enclosed is a copy of the final report from the Smithsonian transmitting the XRF testing they did on two 1849 Massachusetts & California Company \$5 gold pieces. Also enclosed are photocopies of the photos of the two coins. These show that the coin they call an "original" corresponds to a Kagin 1 (vaquero rides on a saddle obverse/5D. reverse) original, while the other they call a "restrike" corresponds to a Kagin 7A (vaquero rides bareback obverse/5 DOLLARS reverse) "restrike".

Douglas Mudd's cover letter is self explanatory. The SI did not do a quantitative analysis, nor did they weigh the coins, for which I fault their inexperience. I do not detect any interest on their part in redoing the tests, unfortunately.

With qualitative data, only, it is very difficult to get any sure idea of the relative contents of gold, silver, copper, and iron in these two coins. The comments of the tester, suggesting higher silver and iron in the "restrike" and higher copper in the "original" are purely subjective and, I think, signify very little about the compositions of these coins. The overlays you can see on the last four pages of the SI report show there is really very little difference in the quantities of copper, iron, and silver in the two coins. The gold contents in each are also quite close, leaving one with the obvious impression that the two coins, while made at different times, were, nevertheless, made from very similar melts.

The results from the 5 DOLLAR "restrike" are quite distinct from those you found on the piece you had tested, which showed a much higher silver content along with a much lower gold content

What does all this signify? I suggest two conclusions. One, that we need more data to be absolutely sure of what we're seeing, here. Two, that the common belief that the 5 DOLLARS reverse type was a "restrike" is incorrect. Instead,

it is clear that at least one of the 5 DOLLARS coins was made from metal very similar in composition to that found in an undisputed "original" with 5 D. reverse. Further, another of the 5 DOLLARS types was made from a very different sort of melt, closer in content to that typical of unalloyed California gold. Therefore, the admittedly scanty evidence shows that the 5 DOLLARS type almost certainly includes two different issues.

As for the origins of these issues, and their timing, this is unknown. The SI cannot tell when they accessioned their "restrrike". I have the original inventory of the material found in Nagy's estate after his death, made by Don Taxay in the early '60s. There is one reeded edge Mass & Cal. on the list, struck in "nickel" and noted as the 5 DOLLARS reverse type. The fact that Nagy owned the coin doesn't mean, of course, that he made it or that it was fake. He owned a lot of real stuff as well as lots of what Bowers calls fancy pieces.

Taken all together, it seems to me that there are strong reasons for authenticating a Mass & Cal. with 5 DOLLARS reverse if (1) its metallic content is closely similar to that in a genuine 5D. coin or it is made of the low gold/high silver alloy typical of native California gold (Nagy was clever but I don't have any evidence he made territorial fakes from melted genuine territorials, especially not ones made from unparted alloys) and (2) it is a die duplicate with other known coins of its type (i.e., not made from copy dies).

The safest course at this time is to decline authenticating any 5 DOLLARS reverse type Mass & Cal. There is no definitive evidence, yet, that they were contemporary with what we call "originals". Further metallic testing may provide the evidence needed, but this will take time to accumulate. In the meantime, cautious conservatism is probably the soundest tack to take. Speaking for myself, I think we will come to recognize that some Mass & Cal's were struck in California in the 1849-50 period. The die work on the 5 DOLLARS reverse type is much cruder than that seen on the "original", which is an interesting observation since Nagy had access through the Philadelphia Mint to the best tools and mechanics in the business.

Yours



Mike Hodder